

REMARKS

The original claims have been replaced with new claims that avoid the art of record in the parent applications. Consideration and allowance of the new claims are respectfully requested.

TAPPERSON et al. 5,682,476 discloses a system for monitoring field devices of the same type, but not the system claimed in which the apparatuses perform different functions and are located at sites that are spaced from one another. TAPPERSON et al. do not consider or address the problem of monitoring different plants with one monitoring station where the plants are spaced from one another at different sites and thus it is not believed that the invention defined in the new claims would be obvious to one of skill in the art.

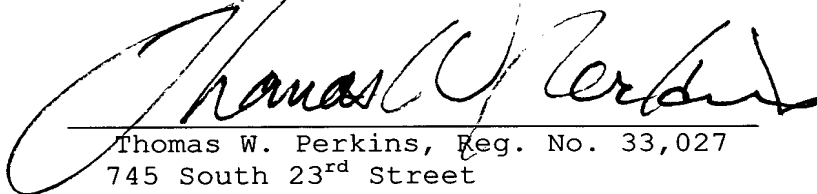
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas W. Perkins', is written over a horizontal line.

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